

#612  
3/10/02  
72-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: GERARD VANACKER ET AL.      Docket No.: 01-765  
Serial No.: 10/019,715      Examiner :  
Filed : December 28, 2001      Art Unit :  
For : FIXING ELEMENT AND ANCILLARY  
FOR STABILISING VERTEBRAE

900 Chapel Street  
Suite 1201  
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial office action in the above-captioned application, please amend said application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend pages 1, 4, and 7 of the specification as shown in the attached marked-up and clean copies of pages 1, 1A, 4, 4A, 7, and 7A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice.

Add new claims 13-24 as shown in the attached Appendix.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Add the Abstract as shown in the attached Appendix.